(c) whether Government have decided policy changes in the matter of self-reliance by allowing such foreign collaborations?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) M/s. Bata Shoe Company and M/s. Carona Shoe Company have been granted approvals for the manufacture of rubber and canvas sports and special application shoes. The available indigenous capacity does not match the technological requirements for such sports and special applications shoes. The terms of collaboration also envisage export obligations resulting in net foreign exchange earnings.

(c) Foreign Collaborations for manufacture of consumer items are considered on the merits of each case guided by factors such as the nature of technology involved, availability of indigenous technology, potential for export earnings or import substitution and need to up date existing technology to become competitive and to suit consumer preference.

Recovery of Cost of HBJ Pipeline from Consumers

*293. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what pricing policy has been adopted for different categories of consumers in various regions for using the natural gas supplied through HBJ pipeline; and

(b) whether the cost of the pipeline is to be recovered from the consumers in the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and if so, in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) With effect from 30-1-1987 Government fixed the price of natural gas supplied through the HBJ Pipeline uniformly at Rs. 2250/1000 M^3. This is exclusive of Royalty, taxes, other local levies, etc.

The gas price includes transportation cost which has been worked out on the basis of pipeline cost. Such cost will be recovered as a result from all the gas consumers along the HBJ pipeline

Hydro-Energy Complex at Tehri

*294. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Miniser of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of the country's biggest hydro-energy complex at Tehri has been cleared by the Soviet seismologists; and

(b) what steps have been taken to safeguard the dams and reservoirs located nearby from the possible threat of earth-quake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no existing major dam or reservoir in the close vicinity of Tehri Dam site. There is, however, a barrage upstream at Maneri Bhali Hydro-electric Project Stage-I and another barrage for Maneri Bhali Hydro-electric Project Stage-II under construction. These projects do not involve any dam or reservoir, as no storage of water is involved in these schemes. A Committee of Experts as well as the Soviet Consultants have studied the environmental, rehabilitational, geological/geo-morphological and seismic aspects of Tehri project and have arrived at a safe and economic engineering structure.